Foreign Trips by PSUs

*339. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of foreign trips undertaken by officials of Ministry of Civil Aviation the rank of Deputy Secretary and above in connection with the official work of the Ministry and its allied PSUs such as AAI, Pawan Hans, Air India and Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): Eleven Officers of the Ministry of Civil Aviation of Deputy Secretary and above undertook a total of 31 foreign trips in the current financial year in connection with the official work of the Ministry and its allied PSUs.

Flaws in Water Management

†*340. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report issued by World Bank in May, 2002 with regard to water management in India;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that it has been mentioned in the said report that as a result of flaws in water management an annual loss of Rs. 74,730 crores is being suffered as per 1994-95 prices; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) The World Bank in one of its reports entitled "Initiating and Sustaining Water Sector Reforms: a Synthesis" published in 1999 had opined that there were certain shortcomings in the water resources management in the country, such as emphasis on development of water resources instead of its efficient management, need for comprehensive basin-wise management of water resources, absence of conjunctive use of surface and ground water, lack of concerns for quality and quantity aspects of water and non resolution of contentious issues of allocation of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

inter-state river waters. In this context, the report mentions estimated costs of inaction in monetary terms in respect of water pollution, soil degradation, and revenue deficit in the form of low water rates and power subsidy in agriculture.

The National Water Policy of 1987 which has largely guided the water resources development in the country already addresses the inadequacies mentioned in the World Bank report. Importance of efficient and sustainable development of water resources, integrated development of surface and ground water through conjunctive use, program for improvement in quality of water and its efficient utilization has been emphasized in the National Water Policy. State Governments are managing their water resources under these policy provisions. The imperatives of agricultural development and the sensitivities/compulsions of socio-economic disparities have guided the policies of the States on subsidising the agricultural and power sector. As such the alleged costs of inaction, as estimated in the World Bank report are not on sound footing.

The revised National Water Policy 2002 further broadens the framework for improved and sustainable development and management of water resources.

Delay in Development of Airports in NE Region

2071. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether development of airports in the North East Region has been seriously hampered due to delay in execution and cost escalation;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in construction and completion: and

(c) what remedial measures Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there has been delay in some project at the airports in North East Region due to insurgency problems prevailing in different parts of North East Region, non-availability of raw materials for construction due to ban imposed by Supreme Court on forest product, including quarrying of stone aggregates at some airports, prolonged duration of rainy season and non-availability of land for development work.